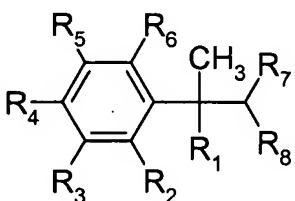


In the claims:

1. (currently amended): A liquid composition comprising

a) from 0.1 to 20% by weight of a dye having a solid state absorption band maximum in the spectral region from 300 to 800 nm,

b) from 0.5 to ~~[[99.9%]]~~ 79.9% by weight of a compound of formula  (I),

wherein R₁ to R₈ are H, CH₃ or C₂H₅, with the proviso that the total number of carbon atoms in R₁ to R₈ is ~~[[0,]]~~ 1 or 2,

c) from 20% to 99.4% by weight of a linear, branched and/or cyclic non-aromatic hydrocarbon wherein the weight ratio of hydrocarbon to compound of formula (I) is from 4:1 to 99:1, and

d) optionally from 0 to 99.4% by weight of one or more further components, all based on the weight of the solution.

2-3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) A composition of claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein the compound of formula (I) is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of o-cymene, m-cymene, p-cymene, sec-butylbenzene, tert-butylbenzene, 2-pentylbenzene, isopent-2-ylbenzene and tert-amylbenzene.

5. (previously presented) A composition of claim 1, wherein the dye is a phthalocyanine.

6. (currently amended) A composition of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein the hydrocarbon is alicyclic, and the weight ratio of hydrocarbon to compound of formula (I) is ~~from 4:1 to 99:1~~ 17:1 to 76:1.

7. (previously presented) A composition of claim 6, wherein the hydrocarbon is selected from cycloalkanes substituted by one or more C₁-C₄alkyl groups and/or having a boiling point of ≤ 170 °C.

8. (previously presented) A process for manufacturing an optical recording medium comprising a substrate with a grooved side, a recording layer overlying the substrate on the grooved side, a reflective layer overlying the recording layer, and a protective layer overlying the reflective layer, which process comprises coating the grooved side of the substrate with the liquid composition of claim 1 to produce the recording layer.

9-11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) A composition of claim **[[3]] 4**, wherein the compound of formula (I) is sec-butylbenzene, tert-butylbenzene or a mixture thereof.

13. (previously presented) A composition of claim 1, wherein the dye is a copper or palladium phthalocyanine.

14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) A composition of claim 6, wherein the hydrocarbon is methylcyclohexane, 1,2-dimethyl cyclohexane, ethyl cyclohexane or a mixture thereof.

16. (previously presented) A process according to claim 8, wherein the grooved side of the substrate is coated with the liquid composition of claim 2 to produce the recording layer.

17. (previously presented) A process according to claim 8, wherein the grooved side of the substrate is coated with the liquid composition of claim 4 to produce the recording layer.

18-20. (cancelled)